



EANGUS

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January 25, 2007

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is the only military service association that represents the interests of every enlisted soldier and airmen in the Army and Air National Guard. With a constituency base of over 414,000 soldiers and airmen, their families, and a large retiree membership, EANGUS engages Capitol Hill on behalf of courageous Guard persons across this nation.

On behalf of EANGUS, and the soldiers and airmen it represents, I'd like to communicate our support for legislation to elevate the position of Chief National Guard Bureau to General, to place the Chief on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and to enhance the responsibilities of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the functions of the National Guard Bureau. For years, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the National Guard as a whole, has deliberately been in the shallow end of the resource pool, bearing the brunt of budget cuts to the Army and Air Force, and having to "take it out of hide" to accomplish federal and state missions that were required by statute but not fully funded by the services or Department of Defense.

Our association stands firm in support of Congressional action to remedy this long-endured and untenable situation. The lack of trust and respect of the National Guard by DOD political and military leaders, as well as the service secretaries, the consistent under-funding of National Guard appropriations accounts, and the intentional lack of communication and coordination all have the probability of being rectified by this legislation by making the National Guard a full player in the decision-making and appropriations process.

Thank you for taking legislative action that is not only timely, but unfortunately necessary, and long overdue. We look forward to working with your staff as this legislation works its way into law.

Working for America's Best!

MSG Michael P. Cline, USA (Ret)
Executive Director